ANNUAL REVIEW 2017–18

WaterHarvest

MAKING EVERY YEAR COUNT
BAHUT DHANYAVAAD | THANK YOU VERY MUCH

We’d like to thank everyone who has helped us to enable rural communities in India combat water poverty, and in particular:

Individuals
Jill Adams
Julie Bushell
Julian English
Mark Everard
Rebecca Flach
Daniela Healey
Carolyn Humphrey
Naomi Irving
Nick Langham
Daphne Maher
Jamille Malcolm
Pam Meir
Helen Pakeman
Lord Bhikhu Parekh
Gillian Russell
James Stanway
Jo Tanter
Sir Mark Tully

All our regular givers
All of our partners in India

Groups and Companies
Charity Christmas Card Shop, St Mary’s Church, Shrewsbury
Fair Ground Fair Trade, Wimborne
Fair Trade at St Michaels, Oxford
North South Travel
University of Northampton
University of Southampton
University of Winchester
University of West of England (UWE)
Winchester Guildhall (Charity Card Shop)
Welcome to the 2017–2018 annual review. I am particularly proud of what we have achieved at WaterHarvest this last year. When I joined as Chairman in the spring of 2016, I spent considerable time looking at what changes were needed to position WaterHarvest for the next 30 years. We held two strategy days where all the stakeholders engaged in vigorous discussion about where we would go next and what was needed to achieve that.

It was clear that we needed a new name and a fresh uplift of all our branding to make it "fit for purpose" to better reflect what we do and our relationship with India. We are very pleased with the response that our new name ‘WaterHarvest’ has had. The other major objective identified was to create an Indian entity. This would be a separate, stand alone NGO with a different board of trustees but would work closely with WaterHarvest. Water Wisdom Foundation was born in March 2018. I’m very proud that we have achieved both of these things in the last year and I would like to thank our team for the hard work and perseverance both these things took to achieve.

Looking to the future, we are now focused on the next 30 years. Whilst we have had some exciting work on measuring impact (see our website for details on the thesis written on our work in the Gangeswar basin), we are now looking at using mobile technology to measure the impact of our projects. Another exciting area for us is rotational funding. Over the last 3 years, we have been doing a pilot project in the Wakal basin giving money to farmers to install drip irrigation to increase their crop yields. After three years, the additional income from the crops should enable the farmer to repay the funds which can then be loaned to a neighbouring farmer. The pilot has gone well and we are beginning a new, larger project this autumn.

A very big thank you to everyone who has supported us this year to provide safer water to help bring a better and brighter future.

Neil Mehta, Chair
WHERE WE WORK AND WHAT WE DO

CURRENT PROJECTS AS AT SEPTEMBER 2018

1. **PARTNER** Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS)
   **PROJECT** Access to Safe Drinking Water for the water stressed communities of Thar.

2. **PARTNER** Jal Bhagirathi Foundation (JBF)
   **PROJECT** Vulnerability reduction by creating sustainable sources of drinking water through community action.

3. **PARTNER** Mahan Seva Sansthan (MSS)
   **PROJECT** Learning about and implementing drip irrigation systems using less water for stronger crops, collective production and selling vegetables.

4. **PARTNER** Samerth Charitable Trust
   **PROJECT** Reviving traditional water wells and promoting conservation of rainwater harvesting.

5. **PARTNER** Tarun Bharat Sangh (TBS)

6. **PARTNER** Prayas Kendra Sanstha Harsoli (PKS)
   **PROJECT** Capturing water and improving quality, growing and selling produce, sanitation teaching, sharing and saving together while seeking government support.

7. **PARTNER** Gram Vikas Nav Yuvak Mandal (GVNML)
   **PROJECT** Community led water resources and land development to enhance livelihoods.

8. **PARTNER** Samarthak Samiti
   **PROJECT** Efficient Water-Use Management for Sustainable Livelihood of Small and Marginal Farmers in Seven villages of Mahi River region.
Building to capture and retain water
Building to improve access to safer drinking water
Strengthening community governance
Educating communities to make best use of scarce water and improve sanitation
Empowering communities to develop ways to earn a living
Enabling women to have a voice, a choice and a future
Supporting communities in water emergencies
2017–18
FINANCIALS

DELIVERING PROGRAMMES – MAKING EVERY PENNY COUNT

Thank you for your generous support

(Figures in brackets are from 2016–17)

This year we raised a total income of **£290,480** (2016–17 **£298,792**). We supported ten development projects, of which seven were continuing projects, and started three new projects. A total of 220 villages and over 165,000 people benefited from our work. Trusts and Foundations continue to be our largest source of funding. After a few difficult years with Corporates we have seen an increase, which although from a small base is encouraging, and an area of focus for us going forward. We finished the year operating within our reserves policy of the equivalent of six months of operating costs.
Our project funding benefits from contributions from local communities and other local sources in India and we are delighted that we leveraged an additional 91% on top of our project costs in this way. We are committed to helping the poorest communities and the contribution of an individual family is sometimes given in labour. We believe that this represents an excellent return on our investment, even before the sustainable benefits brought about by our work are taken into account.

We continued to focus our work in 3 agro-ecological zones in the drylands of Rajasthan (Thar Desert, Aravalli Hills, Sambhar Salt Lakes) and added a fourth zone, Rann of Kutch, in Gujarat.
This year we built 35 water storage tanks (taankas), supplying a sustainable and accessible source of safer water to homes by ‘capturing’ the monsoon rain. We harvested 735,000 litres of rainwater.

We built 76 roof rainwater harvesting systems providing water at home for the very first time for the poorest families. Now monsoon rain is available, stored at home for year-round use, children, adults and animals don’t have to drink contaminated water. Women and girls no longer have to walk each day to collect water for their families, freeing women for their family or work, and girls to go to school.

We have installed 45 water saving irrigation systems, saving 50% of normal water use by irrigating plants individually rather than whole fields. We also taught 45 farmers about these improved farming methods enabling them to grow double the crops, using half the water and using 80% less labour time. The income of these farmers is doubling. They can afford to send their children to school.
“The income of these farmers is doubling. They can afford to send their children to school.”
We have worked with the local Indian government this year to build 1,952 toilets. Our particular focus has been to specialise in toilets for disabled people to assist marginal communities.

Over the course of our two sanitation projects, we have seen an 80% reduction of water and sanitation related diseases and an 80% increase in the number of children (especially girls) attending school due to better water and sanitation facilities.

Having a toilet at home transforms life for everyone, but especially women and girls. Our schools sanitation programmes help children understand the vital importance of good hygiene, and we expect to see a continued improvement in the health of young people.

“We have seen an 80% reduction of water and sanitation related diseases”

Mangibai Gameti and Ambalal Gameti from Nora Hamlet in Bichari Village
In the Sambhar Salt Lakes, we have developed 25 hectares of previously degraded land with an innovative ‘chauka’ system. A system of trenches and bunds slows the flow of the monsoon rain, giving it time to seep into the hard, dry land. This results in year-round vegetation, providing a rich source of fodder for grazing animals. Traditional pastoral herders and their flocks now have better quality of food and fodder. Rainwater harvesting has helped regenerate eco parks, wildlife such as rabbits, monitor lizards, and many species of migrating birds are now increasing in numbers.

“Traditional pastoral herders and their flocks now have better quality of food and fodder”
At WaterHarvest, one of our core missions and values is to continue to improve the work we do by learning from our previous work and also from academics from around the world. Further, we believe in sharing the work we do so others can benefit from our experience and knowledge.

As a result, we are immensely proud of our new book ‘Wise Water Solutions in Rajasthan’. This book covers over 30 years of experience and documents 45 rain water harvesting methods with colour photos of water harvesting structures. It is available in English and Hindi. Let us know if you would like to buy a copy.

This year we have collaborated with Cranfield, UWE Bristol and Northampton University and we are particularly grateful to Professor Mark Everard for his enthusiasm and support.

We were very excited to see a Master of Science thesis done by Momisha using geoinformatic skills to measure the changes that had taken place in the Gangeswar Watershed where WaterHarvest reintroduced traditional methods of water harvesting such as stone check dams and anicuts. To see more, visit the blog page of our website.
We have two offices, a Liaison Office in India and a head office in the UK. Our India office is in Udaipur and our UK office is in Winchester.

UK OFFICE

Nicola Floyd has been a trustee for over two years and has recently become more active in management.

Dawn Flach is Head of Operations, and has been with Waterharvest for over 14 years.

Julia Seal is Head of Fundraising, and has been with Waterharvest for over 13 years.

Sue Sylvester has recently joined Julia on Fundraising

INDIA OFFICE

Headed up by Om Prakash Sharma. Om has been with WaterHarvest for over 18 years.

Dinesh Sharma is Finance Manager, and has been with Waterharvest for 11 years.

Somendra Kumar Sharma is Programme Coordinator, and has been with Waterharvest for 9 years.
We have had a busy year for events. Highlights include two drinks receptions at the House of Lords, generously hosted by Lord Bhikhu Parekh, our Patron. These were a wonderful way to thank supporters and tell them more about the work we do.

We also had several events in the Winchester area including a dinner at Manow Thai Restaurant, and an event at Itchen Abbas hall to celebrate our 30 year anniversary, with a delicious curry supper provided by Rimjhims of Winchester and wonderful entertainment by the family of Jublee Mahapatra.
In India, we hosted over sixty people for an afternoon of debate and discussion and the launch of Water Wisdom Foundation. This was a unique event bringing together all the local partners that we work with in India. There was much debate about the way forward and how NGOs, local communities and governments should all work together. The event was opened by His Highness the Maharana Mahendra Singh Mewar and Sir Mark Tully, a patron of WaterHarvest for over ten years. It was wonderful to hear Sir Mark talk in fluent Hindi and His Highness the Maharana reply in flawless English. It was wonderful to see all the different stakeholders come together and debate how best to achieve our common goal.

“Although the Indian economy has grown at a decent pace in recent years, the fruits of development have been unevenly distributed. Rural India has suffered the most and witnessed hundreds of suicides by farmers who cannot find enough resources including the vitally necessary water to raise crops and make a living. The work of WaterHarvest is of greatest significance and I am proud to be associated with it as a patron. I urge everyone to help its work in whatever ways they can”

Lord Bhikhu Parekh – WaterHarvest Patron

We spent a wonderful weekend at the Bedford Park Festival as the new overseas charity of St Michael and All Angels Church demonstrating how a water tank (taanka) captures the monsoon rain.
Every Drop Counts!

WHERE YOUR £1 GOES

ENSURING GOOD GOVERNANCE

Investing to generate future funds

Delivering programmes to support communities in India

Our Areas of Work

- Building to capture and retain water
- Building to improve access to safer drinking water
- Strengthening community governance
- Educating communities to make best use of scarce water and improve sanitation
- Empowering communities to develop ways to earn a living
- Enabling women to have a voice, a choice and a future
- Supporting communities in water emergencies

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